

Summaries of State and Local Programs

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number of significant concerns relating to ground water contamination and protection. The following sources of contamination are considered to be of principal concern. More than 6000 pits, ponds, and lagoons for industrial sources of waste waters have been identified within the state. Agricultural activities are contributing significantly to contamination of ground water by pesticides and fertilizers. This has been particularly highlighted by the contamination of ground water by aldicarb and ethylene dibromide in central Florida, which received widespread national publicity. Another major area of concern is that of leaking underground storage tanks for fuels and chemicals. More than 40,000 underground storage tanks have been identified within this state, and considerable attention is being paid to protecting ground water from possible leakage of the chemicals and fluids in these tanks. Salt water intrusion is a major natural source of ground water degradation in many areas where pumping draws in salt water or declining water tables and other factors effect salt water intrusion into potable supplies, Florida ranks among the top five states in the nation for the number of uncontrolled hazardous waste sites identified within the state. Landfills, mining activities, and a variety of industrial sources round out the list of major sources of contamination receiving attention in Florida.

Ground Water Management and Protection

Florida has established a comprehensive program of policy, regulations, and governmental framework to manage its ground water resources both in quality and in quantity. Ground water quality is managed primarily through the Department of Environmental Regulation at the state level. The ground water quality program is carried out through six district offices of the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation. There are five Abatement management districts that overlay the entire state, and their concern is the management of the water resources within their district. To that extent, they become involved in the quantity of ground water pumpage and recharge. The department carries out ground water quality regulations and protection activities. Whether an activity relates to ground water quality carried out by the department's own district offices or water supply carried out by one of the five water management districts, activities are tailored to the specific area of the state on a site-specific basis. For the department to be most effective, contracts have been let with the water management districts for the ambient monitoring of some wells. Other coordination exists where efficiency can be maximized by such cooperation.

Florida has one of the most thorough and active ground water protection programs in the country. Its program is based on a combination of several approaches that include a ground water classification system, permitting